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BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959



R. C. WEBSTER

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. P. McGLYNN,

C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector



*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Dept.
Darwen*



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B O R O U G H O F D A R W E N

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R E P O R T

on the

HEALTH and SANITARY

ADMINISTRATION

of the BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

E. P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1959-60

* THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MISS M. BRUGHTON, J.P.

CHAIRMAN:

*ALDERMAN T. V. KEELAN, M.B.E.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

*COUNCILLOR MRS. M. ASPDEN.

*Ald. A. KAY, J.P.

Coun. H. F. HASLAM.

*Ald. F. TAYLOR, C.C. (Deceased)

Coun. J. R. HINDLE.

Coun. E. AINSWORTH.

*Coun. C. W. JONES.

Coun. A. BARNES.

Coun. A. PRESTON.

Coun. D. DAVIDSON.

*Coun. G. W. SNAPE

Coun. T. FITZGERALD.

JOHN CHADWICK FIELDING, LL.B.,

Town Clerk.

*Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee.

STAFF of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.....{ Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council.....{	R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D. D.P.H., D.C.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector.....{ Inspector of Meat and Other Foods...{ Director of Public Cleansing.....{	EDMUND P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., Cert.Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp.(Cert) M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.F.
	{ J. HANDBY, C.S.I.B., Cert.Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I., Inter C.I.S. (Resigned : 31. 3. 59).
District Public Health Inspectors...{	H. RAMSBOTTOM, C.S.I.B., Cert.Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
	{ P. H. WATSON, C.S.I.B., Cert.Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector's Articled Pupil.....{	R. C. DAVIDSON. (Resigned: 22.8.59). W. ENTWISTLE. (Commenced: 1.12.59).
Chief Clerk.....	J. BOLTON
	{ A. ALSTON. (Resigned 30.6.59). Miss M. DUCKWORTH.
Clerical Staff.....{	Miss L. GREGORY. (Commenced 16.2.59) Mrs. O. B. PARRY. F. TOWNLEY.

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES

Name of Clinic or Centre	Situation	Day and Time	By whom provided
Child Welfare & Diphtheria Immunisation	Civic Health Centre	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council
Child Welfare	Greenfield Institute	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council
Ante-Natal	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday, 10 a.m. Thursday 10 a.m. Wednesday 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays 9.30a.m. (Specialist)	Lancashire County Council
Ante-Natal Relaxation	Civic Health Centre	Wednesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council
Maternity & Child Welfare Dental	Civic Health Centre	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
Speech Therapy	Civic Health Centre	Monday and Thursday a.m. by appointment	Lancashire County Council
Ultra-Violet Light	Civic Health Centre	Tuesday 2 p.m. Friday 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
School Dental	Civic Health Centre	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
School Clinics	Civic Health Centre	Minor Ailments Monday to Friday 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. Friday 2 p.m. Tuesday 2 p.m. by appointment	Lancashire County Council

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES

Name of Clinic or Centre	Situation	Day and Time	By whom provided
Ophthalmic	Civic Health Centre	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
Ear, Nose and Throat	Civic Health Centre	Friday p.m. by appointment	Lancashire County Council
Orthopaedic	Civic Health Centre	Wednesday 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council
Chiropodist	Civic Health Centre	Monday 9.30.a.m. Thursday 9.30.a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Health Department Victoria St. Blackburn	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation
Cardiac Clinic for School- children	Tullyallen Open Air School, Darwen.	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Royal Infirmary Blackburn	Thursday 9.15.a.m. by appointment	Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary Blackburn	Males - Wednesday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Females - Monday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis	Civic Health Centre	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board



Civic Health Centre,
Darwen.

May, 1960.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1959.

General vital statistics show no marked changes, except that infant mortality is higher than in the preceding five years. This is, I hope, merely a passing halt in the decline of this figure. Prematurity and/or congenital defects accounted for all but three of the infant deaths; these are two factors over which we still lack effective control. I note with great regret two child deaths due to road accidents. Young children, who are impetuous and lacking experience, and elderly people, who are beginning to slow down in their reactions, are most vulnerable on the roads.

The incidence of infectious disease was light, except for scattered cases of scarlet fever, nowadays a mild disease, and an outbreak of sonné dysentery, a troublesome, but, at present, almost invariably not really dangerous, infection.

I thank all my colleagues, and the Committee, for yet another year in which work for Darwen has been very pleasant.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

P A R T 1.

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Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

B Y

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY of STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1959.

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GENERAL

INFORMATION

Geographical Position.....	Lat. 53 ⁰ 41'25" N. Lon. 2 ⁰ 28'32" W.
Elevation above sea level	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation.....	Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.
Area (in acres).....	5,959
Population - Census, 1951.....	30,827
Population-Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1959.....	29,450
Number of Inhabited Houses-Census, 1951....	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1959.....	10,630
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951.....	10,797
Rateable Value.....	£292,897
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£ 1,085

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 13,915 insured adult persons, the average per cent unemployed was 2.4. The corresponding figures for 1958 were :-
Insured adult persons, 13,869; Average per cent unemployed was 1.8.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

=====

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	228	212	440	Birth-rate per 1,000 Estimated home population mid 1959. Crude 15.6 Adjusted 16.8
	{ Illegitimate	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>	
	{ Total	238	220	458	
	{	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	
STILL BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	7	7	14	Rate per 1,000 total Births 29.7
	{ Illegitimate	<u>nil</u>	<u>nil</u>	<u>nil</u>	
	{ Total	7	7	14	
	{	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	
DEATHS	{	257	215	472	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1959 Crude 16.0. Adjusted 15.7
	{				
	{				
	{				
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION	{ Respiratory T.B.....				0.07
	{ Malignant Neoplasms, etc.....				2.61
MATERNAL MORTALITY	{ Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion..				nil
	{ Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births.....				nil
INFANTILE MORTALITY	{		Males	Females	Total
	{ Legitimate Infants.....		9	4	13
	{ Illegitimate Infants.....		<u>nil</u>	<u>nil</u>	<u>nil</u>
	{ Total Deaths.....		<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>
(Infants under the age of 1 year)	{				
	{				
Rate per 1,000 live births..... 28.4.					

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

YEAR	DARWEN	ENGLAND AND WALES
1950	36	29.8
1951	24	29.6
1952	34	27.6
1953	24	26.8
1954	28	25.5
1955	23	24.9
1956	27	23.8
1957	26	23.0
1958	20.1	22.5
1959	28.4	22.0

		Total	Rate per 1,000 population
OTHER INFANT DEATHS.	Deaths from Measles (at all ages)...	nil	0.000
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages)	nil	0.000
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	nil	0.000
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.....	11	
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.....	24.0	
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.....	17.5	
PERINATAL MORTALITY	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births.....	46.6	

PLEASE NOTE :- "Perinatal Mortality" shows the total number of stillbirths and total number of Infant Deaths during the first week of age."

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 458, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 16.8 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years in comparison with the rate for England and Wales is shown in the following table -

YEAR	DARWEN			RATE PER 1,000	ENGLAND AND WALES
	NUMBER OF BIRTHS				RATE PER 1,000
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL		
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8
1951	235	214	449	15.5	15.5
1952	221	190	411	14.2	15.3
1953	223	240	463	16.1	15.5
1954	212	188	400	14.4	15.2
1955	211	222	433	15.6	15.0
1956	204	201	405	14.7	15.7
1957	224	207	431	15.6	16.1
1958	228	219	447	16.3	16.4
1959	238	220	458	16.8	16.5

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years :-

YEAR	Number of Births	Rate per cent of Live Births	No. of Deaths under 1 year	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births
1950	19	4.58	nil	nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	nil	nil
1953	16	3.45	nil	nil
1954	12	3.00	nil	nil
1955	18	4.15	nil	nil
1956	21	5.18	2	95
1957	29	6.72	nil	nil
1958	26	5.45	nil	nil
1959	18	3.93	nil	nil

STILLBIRTHS - The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years :-

Year	No. of Stillbirths			Rate per 1,000 Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total		Darwen	England & Wales
1950	17	nil	17	39	0.54	0.37
1951	12	1	13	28	0.40	0.36
1952	11	3	14	33	0.45	0.35
1953	16	1	17	35	0.55	0.35
1954	13	nil	13	31	0.42	0.36
1955	3	nil	3	7	0.09	0.35
1956	7	1	8	19	0.26	0.37
1957	12	nil	12	27	0.40	0.37
1958	10	nil	10	21.9	0.33	0.36
1959	14	nil	14	29.7	0.47	0.35

DEATHS - The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 472, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 15.7.

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales :-

YEAR	DARWEN		ENGLAND AND WALES
	TOTAL DEATHS	RATE PER 1,000	RATE PER 1,000
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3
1953	438	12.7	11.4
1954	493	14.8	11.3
1955	464	14.0	11.7
1956	462	15.2	11.7
1957	436	14.4	11.5
1958	507	16.7	11.7
1959	472	15.7	11.6

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths :-

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	2	-	2
Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease.....	1	1	2
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	-	-
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.....	10	7	17
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus...	15	1	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.....	-	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.....	-	3	3
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	15	32
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.....	1	-	1
Diabetes.....	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System...	50	30	80
Coronary Disease, Angina.....	50	31	81
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	8	5	13
Other Heart Disease.....	18	37	55
Other Circulatory Disease.....	4	10	14
Influenza.....	4	8	12
Pneumonia.....	14	9	23
Bronchitis.....	23	18	41
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	5	1	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea...	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	4	2	6
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	6	-	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.....	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations.....	1	2	3
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases.	14	10	24
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	1	3	4
All other Accidents.....	6	9	15
Suicide.....	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	257	215	472

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

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A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services - Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health Laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all Ages	Cases Notified and Accepted									TOTAL DEATHS	Hospital	
		Years										Cases remov- ed	Deaths
		Un- der 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever..	45	-	2	8	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles(exclud- ing Rubella)...	27	1	8	14	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	42	4	15	8	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)....	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	5	2	6	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	4	-
Meningococcal Infection.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE POLIO- MYELITIS:-													
Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE ENCE- PHALITIS:-													
Infective.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Infect- ious.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	121	5	15	31	23	7	8	29	-	3	-	10	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
MALARIA:-													
Contracted in England & Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abroad.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
TOTALS :-	259	10	40	61	70	13	11	36	8	10	2	31	-

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years :-

DISEASE	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	25	24	85	30	45
Diphtheria(including Membranous Croup).....	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever..... (excluding Paratyphoid).....	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.....	1	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding Rubella)..	509	61	395	307	27
Whooping Cough.....	25	119	36	4	42
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal).....	10	14	18	5	14
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	5	3	2	4	5
Meningococcal Infection.....	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS:					
Paralytic.....	5	-	2	-	-
Non-Paralytic.....	2	-	-	-	-
ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS :					
Infective.....	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Infectious.....	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	98	-	-	-	121
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	1	3	1	-	2
MALARIA :					
Contracted in England & Wales.....	-	-	-	-	-
Abroad.....	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.....	324	3	-	2	3
Totals :-	1007	227	539	352	259

TUBERCULOSIS Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1959 :-

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		non-Respiratory		Respiratory		non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0 - 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10.....	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 20.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25.....	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35.....	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65.....	2	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-
65 - 75.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
75 & upwards..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
Totals.....	10		4		2		-	

* Death from Tuberculosis of a case not notified.

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:-

YEAR	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33
1952	11	10	2	3	26
1953	9	2	7	5	23
1954	5	6	—	2	13
1955	6	6	1	6	19
1956	9	5	2	—	16
1957	9	2	2	—	13
1958	11	3	2	1	17
1959	7	3	2	2	14

NATIONAL
ASSISTANCE
ACT, 1948
& 1951
Section 47

No action taken under this
Section.

P A R T 11.

=====

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
(including Public Cleansing)

Housing, and

Inspection and Supervision of Food

By

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., etc.

Senior Public Health Inspector

and

Director of Public Cleansing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

=====

WATER

RESERVOIRS - Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs - Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton. Two supplementary water supplies are also available when required from a borehole in the centre of the town and a mineshaft at Eccleshill piped to Sunnyhurst Reservoir.

PURIFICATION - All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

SUPPLY - The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,797.

SAMPLING

CHEMICAL - Nine samples of water from public supplies were submitted for analysis during the year. Seven were satisfactorily reported upon and two were unsatisfactorily reported upon.

BACTERIOLOGICAL - Ten samples of drinking water from Public Supplies and four samples of drinking water from two private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination. Seven samples from the Public Supplies were satisfactorily reported upon. The other three samples were test samples of raw water, before treatment, and the results showed the pollution existing before filtration and chemical treatment removed it prior to public use.

Three samples from the Private Supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst one sample was unsatisfactorily reported upon.

Further samples of these supplies are being taken periodically. Users are advised on precautionary measures.

SEWERAGE,
DRAINAGE
and CLOSET
ACCOMMOD-
ATION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough :

Pails.....	130
Water Closets.....	12,791
Waste Water Closets.....	882
Cesspools.....	0
Total.....	13,803

Conversions and Installations during 1959 :-

New Water Closets fixed.....	174
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets	123
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets....	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets.....	0
Baths installed during the year.....	98
Showers installed during the year.....	0
Urinals installed during the year.....	1
Waste Water Closets dismantled.....	0
Water Closets dismantled.....	0

Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions will gradually result in the total abolition of the 882 waste water closets, and if the present rate of progress continues, this will take only another seven years.

RIVERS
AND
STREAMS

The river is still somewhat polluted by industrial waste effluents, though rather less than in previous years. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA	Number of houses visited.....	746
	Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932)....	230
	Number of inspections of schools.....	0
	Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces.....	163
	Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel..	52
	Number of inspections of Bakehouses.....	0
	Number of inspections of Dairies & Cowsheds	0
	Number of inspections of Refuse Tips.....	145
	Complaints received and investigated.....	324
	Number of re-inspections made.....	3038
	Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases).....	92
	Number of rooms disinfected.....	37
	Number of smoke observations taken.....	17
	Number of drains, etc., tested.....	302
	Total number of defects discovered.....	947
	Informal Notices served.....	947
	Statutory Notices served.....	60
	Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year...	1903

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED	Defective drains.....	114
	Choked and defective sewers.....	1
	Defective soil pipes and water closets.....	16
	Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls.....	41
	Defective plastering.....	102
	Defective roofs and damp walls.....	51
	Dirty houses and premises.....	0
	Dangerous buildings.....	16
	Dirty and dilapidated closets.....	47
	Accumulations of refuse.....	1
	Defective or uneven gullies.....	16
	Insanitary sinks.....	2
	Defective fire-ranges.....	20
	Broken slop pipes.....	5
	Defective flushing cisterns.....	3
	Defective tippers of waste water closets...	0
	Choked waste water closets.....	49
	Choked water closets.....	23
	Insanitary yards.....	11
	Defective internal floors.....	47
	Insufficient ventilation.....	62

.. continued

.. continued

Burst water pipes.....	1
Defective wash boilers.....	4
*Miscellaneous nuisances.....	215

*The miscellaneous nuisances include such items as defective pointing, defective woodwork of doors, defective pointing and putty around windows, etc.

SHOPS: FOOD

1995 routine and special inspections were made of meat, fish and other food shops and market stalls under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Advice was given as necessary, and various works of improvement initiated. These consisted principally of the installation of requisite washing facilities, and of counter and shelf fittings designed to prevent contamination of food.

INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT, 1950

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work, especially housing, has limited visitation somewhat.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Seventeen smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instructions to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given. One of the main difficulties encountered in efforts towards smoke abatement is the variable quality and grade of the fuel supplied to manufacturers, who still seem to be limited in choice of particular fuel supplies.

DISINFEST- ATION

During the year one hundred and sixty six houses were found to be infested with vermin. All of these had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The following are established in the district :- Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor and one fat melter.

MUNICIPAL
HOSTEL

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was :- Males, 123.78;
Females, 15.09.

FACTORIES

One hundred and fifty seven routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year, were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting somewhat below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

CHIEF
SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS
OF THE
DISTRICT

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are :-

The conversion of pail and waste water closets;

The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;

The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;

The paving of back streets and unmade roads;

The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

=====

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

VEHICLES

The refuse collection and disposal service is completely mechanised. The tractor-drawn trailer tank for nightsoil collection is now in use for one day per week only.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Reference was made in a recent Annual Report to the great difficulties experienced by the Department in keeping the refuse collection frequency at a reasonable level during the winter months. Full particulars were given there of the various factors which have arisen during the past 20 years which affect the position. These factors do not change with the passage of time and the Cleansing Committee has the service continually under review so that no expedient to improve the frequency may go untried. All the four districts into which the town is divided for refuse collection purposes are now serviced by vehicles which have maximum capacity consistent with manoeuvrability in the narrower streets. These vehicles are of the "fore-and-aft" tipping type and are proving very successful.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The system of controlled tipping continues to be operated at the Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip - the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive.

SALVAGE

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year :-

	Tons	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers.....	480	0
Ferrous Metals - Baled Tins.....	nil	nil
" " - Black Scrap.....	24	4
Non-Ferrous Metals.....	-	16
Textiles - Rags, Carpets.....	7	0
Waste Foods - Pigswill (after boiling)	69	0
	---	---
Total.....	581	0
	---	---

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £3,608.

The price of waste paper rose by £1 to £7 per ton, bringing it level with container waste.

A large Nissen type hut sited at Bull Hill Tip is used for sorting and baling waste paper and rags, and separating metals for disposal. Paper and container waste are mechanically baled.

As from October, 1959, the Corporation ceased to process waste food and rented the buildings and plant to a local pig-keeper, whom they licensed and to whom they continued to deliver the waste food collected by them. In this way the wage of one employee was saved. This was an obvious economy measure to take as the cost of processing waste food - e.g. wage, fuel, etc., - had already begun to exceed the income from its sale.

SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the work done during 1959. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
	-----	-----	-----
House Refuse to Tip (3875 loads).....	6,200	0	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (377 loads).....	565	10	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse).....	390,286		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse).....	23,311		
Excreta.....		104	loads
Excreta Pails Emptied.....	2,559		
Sludge from Street Gullies.		308	loads
Street Gullies Emptied.....	17,421		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks.....	2,727		
Sweepings: Manulectric Trucks.....	787	loads	
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles.....	12,706		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper.....	1,892	miles	
Length of Streets swept by Manulectric Trucks.....	2,003	miles	

H O U S I N G

=====

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year -

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b)).....	12
(i)	By Local Authority.....	0
(ii)	By other Local Authorities.....	0
(iii)	By other bodies or persons.....	12
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts -	
(i)	By the Local Authority (included under (a)(i) above).....	0
(ii)	By other bodies (included under (a)(iii) above).....	12

I

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year -

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	230
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	1161
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932.....	177
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	201
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	12

STATISTICS
(continued)

I	(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	218
II		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices - Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	8
III		Action under statutory powers during the year -	
	(1)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	15
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices. -	
	(i)	By owners.....	9
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	11
	(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts -	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied....	0
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -	
	(i)	By owners.....	0
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	0

STATISTICS
(continued)

III	(3)	Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
	(a) (i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	20
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in ownership of Local Authority dealt with in accordance with Section 3 (3a) of the Housing Subsidies Act 1956, as directed in Appendix II of Circular 33/56 with a view to demolition.....	0
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	31
		(This figure includes three houses demolished informally by owners upon vacation by tenants.)	
	(c)	Number of houses demolished where action has been taken under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879.....	0
	(d)	Number of dwelling-houses closed as a result of Closing Orders made under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.....	30
	(4)	Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
	(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	0
	(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	0
	(5)	Houses closed informally by owners...	0

STATISTICS
(continued)

III	(6)	Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
		Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders.....	114
IV		Housing Act, 1957 Part IV - Overcrowding -	
	(1) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	0
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein.....	0
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	0
	(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	0
	(3) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	0
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	0
V		Housing Acts, 1949 - 1954.	
	(1) (a)	Number of schemes submitted -	
	(i)	By private individuals to Local Authority.....	37
	(ii)	By Local Authority to Ministry.....	0
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses affected.....	37
	(2) (a)	Number of schemes approved -	
	(i)	Of private individuals.....	37
	(ii)	Of the Local Authority.....	0
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses affected.....	37
	(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings provided.....	0

OVERCROWDING

"Overcrowding" as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding has been fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, but is gradually being reduced.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The chief difficulty in housing work is the inability to secure extensive repairs by informal action, with the result that statutory procedure has to be invoked, with all the additional work and time involved.

It is, perhaps, worthy of note here, that since the last Report the Corporation have taken over 7 houses at the request of the owners in discharge of debts for default repair works, making a total of 42 houses so far taken over.

In addition, a further 20 houses of varying types and sizes have been acquired by the Corporation at the instance of, and by agreement with, the owners, making a total of 144 houses so far taken over, of which 12 were in Housing Clearance or Redevelopment Schemes. Those not in such Schemes have been, or are to be, repaired. Some of the others have been patch-repaired for temporary occupancy pending final clearance.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

SAMPLING

MILK

BIOLOGICAL. Fifty samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. Fifty were reported as negative.

BACTERIOLOGICAL. Eighty samples were examined during the year. Fifty-two were satisfactorily reported upon, twenty-eight were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the Divisional Milk Officer.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK - See Tables I and II below.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1941, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised, after sterilisation, for animal feeding-stuffs, was as shown in Table III on Page 37.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst, whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF OTHER FOODS - See Table I.

TABLE I - SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE

No. of Samples	Description	Formal	Informal
34	Milk.....	34	..
1	Pork Sausage.....	..	1
5	Ice Cream.....	..	5
1	Rapid Quinine Compound Tablets...	..	1
1	Lung Tonic.....	..	1
1	Lambs' Liver.....	..	1
1	Pigs' Liver.....	..	1
2	Salmon Paste.....	..	2
1	Tea.....	..	1
1	Ground Ginger.....	..	1
1	Ground Rice.....	..	1
2	Ground Almonds.....	..	2
1	Strength Pills.....	..	1
1	Non-alcoholic Cordial.....	..	1
1	Pork Luncheon Meat.....	..	1
1	Stuffed Pork & Meat Roll.....	..	1
1	Baked Beans with Hamburgers and Tomato.....	..	1
1	Table Jelly.....	..	1
1	Instant Coffee.....	..	1
1	Butter.....	..	1
1	Diabetic Milk Chocolate.....	..	1
1	Brewers' Yeast Tablets.....	..	1
1	Crab Spread with Butter.....	..	1
1	Brooklax Chocolate Laxative.....	..	1
1	Apples.....	..	1
1	All Fours Mixture.....	..	1
3	Whisky.....	..	3
3	Gin.....	..	3
3	Rum.....	..	3
3	Brandy.....	..	3
1	Christmas Cake.....	..	1
1	Christmas Pudding.....	..	1
1	Marzipan.....	..	1
1	Mincemeat.....	..	1
1	Sweet Vermouth.....	..	1
1	Grand Marnier Liqueur.....	..	1
1	Orange Bitters.....	..	1
1	Chocolate Liqueurs.....	..	1
1	Glaze Cherries.....	..	1

TABLE II - SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE

Cons. No.	No. of Samples	Description	Formal	Informal	Result	Action Taken
1	1	Milk	x		Fat 2.65% Solids-not-fat 7.87% Freezing Point (Hortvet)-0.534°C Deficient 11.6% fat Low in solids-not-fat	Vendor cautioned
2	1	Milk	x		Deficient 6.6% fat Low in solids-not-fat	Vendor cautioned
3	1	Pork Sausage		x	Meat content only 57.5% Poor in meat	No action advised
4	1	Lambs' Liver	x		Consisted entirely of pig liver	Legal proceedings instituted. Vendor pleaded guilty. Fined £10 + £5/5/- advocate fees
5	1	Pork Sausage		x	Meat content only 57.5% Poor in meat content	No action advised
6	1	Pork Sausage		x	Contained 240 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor cautioned

TABLE II - SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE (continued)

Cons. No.	No. of Samples	Description	Formal	Informal	Result	Action Taken
7	1	Pork Sausage		x	Meat content 70.5%. Contained 65 parts per million preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor cautioned
8	1	Lung & Bronchial Syrup		x	Total acidity (as Acetic Acid) 1.83% by weight. Formula declared includes "Acid Acetic 50". Acetic Acid B.P. is 33% w/w & Dilute Acetic Acid B.P. is 6% w.w. of Acetic Acid. Acetic Acid found corresponds to presence of 30.5% Dilute Acetic Acid by weight (or 36.7% by volume)	Vendor interviewed Product subsequently re-labelled correctly

It will be observed that the Pork Sausages (Samples Nos. 3 and 5) were poor in meat content, judged by the unofficial standard of 65% minimum meat content, which, following the wartime precedent, we consider to be a reasonable one. But in the absence of a statutorily declared standard, no action can be taken by the Local Authority, as, in a case taken, the Local Bench declined to fix a standard.

It is, and I think rightly, the generally held opinion of Public Health Inspectors and Public Analysts, that a meat content standard should be fixed for both beef and pork sausages, since, without it, it will not be possible even to attempt to secure that when the public are buying these articles of food, they will be getting the right nutritional material in satisfactory proportions.

TABLE III - SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD
CONDEMNED DURING 1959

Amount	Nature of Food	Amount	Nature of Food
112 tins	Assorted Fruit	1 tin	Boneless Turkey
60 tins	Assorted Vegetables	1 tin	Steak and Onions
5 tins	Ox Tongue	5 tins	Pork Tenderloin
3 tins	Luncheon Meat	5 tins	Baked Beans
10 tins	Corned Beef	3 tins	Mixed Fruit Pudding
14 tins	Ham	3 tins	Frozen Eggs
15 tins	Fish	9 tins	Minced Pork
10 tins	Tomatoes	2 jars	Chicken Fillets
17 tins	Soups	2 tins	Coffee
10 tins	Milk	1 jar	Calves' Feet Jelly
23 tins	Cream	1 tin	Calves' Tongues
15 tins	Rice Pudding	1 tin	Pork Shoulder
1 tin	Spaghetti	21 boxes	Spanish Onions
1 tin	Spam	244 lbs.	Currants
2 tins	Stewed Steak	9 lbs	Kippers

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for thirteen years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year -

No. of Premises Inspected	No. of Premises found Infested	No. of Treatments carried out		Estimated kill of rats	Cum. total of rats killed since inception of service
		Full	Test		
457 (including 60 hen-pens)	177	139	93	4,086	32,490

SEWER TREATMENTS

Date	Number of Manholes Treated	Estimated Kill
April	497	1,907
October	612	1,735

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